

Naas: 1st out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

What was so striking about Naas wasn't just how good the sites were with regard to litter but all the other community elements that are clearly in evidence. Lovely signage indicated 'Naas Heritage Trail' throughout the town; Reverse Vending Machine in operation outside Dunnes Stores, volunteer litter picking shortly after 9.00am on a Tuesday morning and the signage re Tidy Towns initiatives relating to historical sites and the local Greenway Cycle (in conjunction with local business). A few top ranking sites deserve to be highlighted – North / South Main Street was remarkably clean, throughout a very long stretch of road; Naas Lakes – Lower / Middle / Upper is a wonderful waterside amenity which has been attractively landscaped with seating, planting and all associated amenities in very good condition; the residential area of Lakelands was spotless.

Dublin Road Approach: Grade A. A very freshly presented and maintained route into Naas and this high standard was sustained for almost all the remaining sites surveyed. The area was served by plenty of litter bins and there was large, sculpted shrubbery 'Failte go Naas' at one of the major junctions.

R410 Blessington Approach Road: Grade A. A very clean and tidy impression was created along this road. Apart from some graffiti on the ESB box on the left hand side all aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order.

'Bring Centre' at Tesco (Blessington Road): Grade A. This was an exceptionally clean 'Bring' facility for clothing / glass and cans – quite a rarity in the experience of IBAL surveys. The bin units were all freshly presented, signage relating to the use of same was clear, legible and not defaced. There was absolutely no litter in the area immediately surrounding the recycle bins.

Kilcullen Approach Road: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this road from Kilcullen Road Roundabout to the centre of the town. It was a clean, tidy and well-presented and maintained route.

'Lakelands': Grade A. The residential area of Lakelands was pristine. An extensive area of interconnecting roads, with abundant tree foliage throughout, Lakelands was a model Grade A environment.

Naas Lakes – Lower / Middle / Upper: Grade A. What a lovely waterside resources, just minutes from the main street. An extensive area of lakelands with attractive paving and waterside features e.g., seating, PE equipment, Draughts / Chess Table, life-belts, excellent signage relating to wildlife etc – all elements of the area surveyed were in very good condition, with plenty of litter bins throughout.

North / South Main Street: Grade A. It was striking how clean this long stretch of main shopping street was. While there were a number of closed down / vacant outlets, they didn't impact negatively on the overall impression – efforts were made to 'take away the bare look' on some of the properties. There were plenty of people outside The Courthouse building and yet there wasn't a cigarette butt in sight.

Poplar Square: Grade A. A small town-square environment with picnic tables, benches, substantial planter boxes (some looking more colourful than others), bicycle parking and a mix of regular litter bins, combined with recycle bins – the area is very well served by litter bins. As with so many of the other sites surveyed in Naas, it was spotless. Litter bins were equipped with both gum and cigarette butt units.

Dunnes Stores: Grade A. A very fresh environment, devoid of litter. Great to see a 'Reverse Vending' machine in operation.

Canal Walk / Naas Harbour: Grade B. The pathway between the bridge and Naas Harbour was spotless with all associated signage in very good order. There were some nice waterside features at the Harbour e.g., white seating and wildlife notices. The water was crystal clear throughout. Interesting to note that the signage on the litter bins in this area indicates that 'somebody is watching you' and clearly there is a need for same in this area – based on the fact that a couple of the bins had black sacks left beside them.